

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 PM-05
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UNCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1970

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER FROM GROSS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: LE, MORG
SUBJ: SURVEY TEAM COMMENTS ON ADDITIONAL SMALL ARMS REQUEST

1. TODAY'S ACTIVITIES YIELDED INSIGHTS WHICH BEAR
DIRECTLY ON GOL REQUEST FOR 5000 ADDITIONAL M-16 RIFLES.
SALIENT POINT TO BE MADE IS THAT TOTAL INVENTORY FIGURE
FOR SMALL ARMS - 10437 - IS, IN FACT, GROSS EXAGGERATION
OF ACTUAL CAPABILITY. FOLLOWING IS BREAK-OUT OF TOTALITY
INDICATED ABOVE.

US M-16	2421
FRENCH FAL	1381
US M1 GARAND	920
FRENCH M49	250
FRENCH MAS36	2028
MISCELLANEOUS	3437

MISCELLANEOUS IN THIS CASE COMPRISES US M1 CARBINE,
GERMAN MAUSER 98, SOVIET AK-47, SLAVIA, ETC. BY ANY
OBJECTIVE STANDARD, ONLY 3802 M-16/FAL CONSTITUTE EFFECTIVE
WEAPONRY. IT ALSO WELL TO NOTE THAT ONLY AMMUNITION
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COMPATIBILITY IS BETWEEN M49 AND MAS36, TWO OLDEST
RIFLES MENTIONED. CLEARLY, WERE GOL TO DEPLOY
PLANNED FORCE OF UP TO 3000 TROOPS SOUTHWARD, LAF IN
REST OF COUNTRY WOULD STAND EFFECTIVELY DISARMED.

2. WITH EXCEPTION OF 10,000,000 ROUNDS OF 5.56 MM
AMMUNITION AND 200,000 ROUNDS OF .50 CAL NOW ON HAND

AT ARMY HEADQUARTERS (WHICH TEAM INSPECTED TODAY), WAR RESERVE OF AMMUNITION IS SLIM TO NONE. THERE IS, FOR EXAMPLE, NOTHING ON HAND IN DEPOTS TO SUPPORT 122 MM FIELD ARTILLERY, NO 76 MM ROUNDS FOR ARMORED CARS, NO 81 MM MORTAR AMMUNITION, ETC. THOUGH LEFT UNSAID, IT APPARENT THAT HESITANCY EVIDENT TO DATE CONCERNING MAJOR REDEPLOYMENTS TO SOUTH LEBANON STEM AT LEAST IN PART FROM CRITICAL AMMUNITION SHORTAGES. LAF IS CREDIBLY CONCERNED THAT PLO OR OTHER CHALLENGE TO HYPOTHETICAL FORCE SENT SOUTH WITH MAJOR WEAPONS FOR WHICH NO AMMUNITION AVAILABLE WOULD TRIGGER QUOTE CATASTROPHE UNQUOTE. TEAM NOT INCLINED TO FIND FAULT WITH THIS PERHAPS HYPERBOLIC DESCRIPTION. PARKER

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION CO-ORDINATED WITH S/S-O MS. KENNEDY.

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